Misuse of domestic gas cylinders by the commercial establishments due to vast difference in prices

1910. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATRUAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to vast difference in the prices of domestic and commercial LPG cylinders there exist a big racket of underhand dealing wherein domestic gas cylinders are being issued to commercial establishments which goes unabated, thus making a mockery of this dual pricing system;

(b) whether Government are also aware that often innocent LPG dealers are harassed by the concerned Oil Company Officials due to the malpractices of the commercial establishments which misuse the domestic gas cylinders; and

(c) if so, whether Government would see that the difference of this price is reduced to considerable extent to avoid the misuse and such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Even though no specific instances in this regard have been brought to the notice of the Government, the possibility of unauthorised diversion of LPG refills meant for domestic consumers to commercial customers by unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out;

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, several measures have been taken by the oil companies to prevent such unauthorised diversion, such as colour-banding of cylinders meant for non-domestic use, maintenance of separate registers at the distributor's level in respect of domestic and non-domestic consumers, setting up of distributorships to cater exclusively to non-domestic consumers, introduction of cylinders of a different size for non-domestic use, etc. The Government has also issued the Liquified Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1988 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Issues raised by the M. Ps of West Bengal with the Industry Minister

1911. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
SHRI RAMNARYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the issues put forward by the Members of Parliament of West Bengal before him on the 11th May, 1988;

(b) the names of the M.Ps who put forward those issues;

(c) whether any action has been taken on those issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The names of the Members who attended the meeting on 11th May, 1988 taken by Shri J. Vengal Rao, Union Minister of Industry with Members of Parliament from West Bengal are given in the enclose Statement (*See* below).

The issues raised at the meeting included industrial sickness, working of the BIFR, Haldia Petrochemicals, Bengal Potteries, ACC-Babcock Ltd., Titagarh Paper Mills, Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd., Hindustan Pilkington, Bengal Paper Mills, Machinery Manufacturers Corporation Ltd., Jute Modernisation Fund, freight equalisation etc. The various issues raised and suggestions made, including those mentioned above, have been noted.

Statement

1. Shri A. K. Panja, Minister of State for Finance
2. Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, Minister of State for Commerce.
3. Miss Mamata Banerjee, M.P., Lok Sabha.
4. Shri Chitta Basu, M.P., Rajya Sabha.
5. Shri A.G. Mukherjee, M P , Lok Sabha.
6. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, M P., Lok Sabha.
7. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta, M.P., Rajya Sabha.
8. Shri Mohammed Amin, M.P., Rajya Sabha.
9. Shri Amal Dutta, M.P., Lok Sabha.
10. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, M.P.. Lok Sabha.
11. Shri Asutosh Law, M.P., Lok Sabha.
12. Shri Indrajit Gupta, M.P., Lok Sabha.
13. Shri Tarun Kanti Ghosh, M.P., Lok Sabha.
14. Shri Bhola Nath Sen, M.P., Lok Sabha.
15. Prof. M.R. Halder, M.P., Lok Sabha.
16. Shri Dipen Ghosh, M.P., Rajya Sabha.

Central public sector investment in West Bengal

1912. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total central public sector investment in West Bengal as on 31st March, 1987;

(b) what is the annual turnover of these undertakings, their profits and losses and the number of their permanent and temporary employees;

(c) whether any new investment is proposed in the public sector by the Central Government in West Bengal;

(d) whether any new projects are likely to be set up; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO). (a) The total Central Public Sector investment in terms of gross block in West Bengal as on 31.3.1987 was Rs. 4532.55 crores.

(b) The details for the year ending 31.3.1988 are given as under:—

Gross turnover :	Rs	4659.75 crores
Profit/Loss Loss :	Rs.	346.54 crores
Number of employees (permanent & temporary):		454600

(c) The investment in Central Public Sector Enterprises in the Industrial & Mineral Sector proposed in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the State of West Bengal is Rs. 1281.90 crores.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 510 crores has been earmarked in the Seventh Five Year Plan outlay for new Projects in West Bengal, the details of which is given hereunder.—

	(Rs. in crores)
1. Durgapur Steel Plant Modernisation	460.00
2. Jessop & Co. Ltd. Manufacture of hydraulic components etc.	7.75
3. Ship repair and Dredger facilities at Calcutta Port	17 25
4. Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd.—Modernisation	25 00

Per capita investment in public sector in different States and Union Territories

1913. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made regarding the per capita investment in public sector made by the Central